

August 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the City of Bertram was held on the above date at 7:00pm virtually via Zoom/phone conference and in person at City Hall. Mayor Dave Hunt presided at the meeting. Council members present were Steve Carpenter, Kim Morahan, Bill Mulholland, and Margy Wilson. Council member Chris Price was absent.

Wilson made motion to amend the agenda to add Letter of Support for Flood Prevention Grant as Item 5a. MSB Mulholland. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried.

Public comments on agenda items: Morahan reported a concern from a resident regarding the alleyway topic on the agenda. Council confirmed the agenda topic is for discussion purposes and determining next step.

Mulholland made motion to approve the minutes from the Jul 1 meeting. MSB Morahan. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried.

Sheriff's Report: 47.10 hours; 7 calls for service.

Carpenter made motion to accept and pay the following bills for August, including Kluesner Construction invoice for patches to streets. MSB Mulholland. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried.

Warrant No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
0019	Alliant Energy	City Hall Electricity	55.08
0020	Alliant Energy	Streetlights	548.86
0021	Alliant Energy	City Park Electricity	23.22
0022	Verizon Wireless	Phone/Internet	92.90
0023	Woodward Community Media	Publication Fees	48.46
0024	IPERS	Retirement Benefits	144.09
0025	Jason Houghtaling	Payroll	524.76
0026	Morgan Houghtaling	Payroll	121.21
0027	Anthony Vislisel	Payroll	516.95
0028	Anthony Vislisel	Reimbursement: Fuel	39.00
0029	VISA	Mower parts	103.58
0030	VISA	Shop supplies	53.46
0031	Lisa Berry	Reimbursement: Casey MasterCard charges for fuel	77.80
0032	Casey's Business Mastercard	Fuel for City Equipment	51.00
0033	Linn Co-op Oil Company	LP Gas contract	990.00
0034	Iowa Prison Industries	Traffic signs, hardware, posts	4,698.40
0035	Kluesner Construction Inc	Street patch repairs	1,008.00
		Total Bills for Operating Account	9,096.77
W0004	Alliant Energy/IPL	Pumphouse Electricity	101.90
W0005	Jared Vogeler	Operations	435.00
W0006	Keystone Laboratories, Inc	Water testing	12.50
W0007	Iowa Dept of Natural Resources	Annual water supply fee	25.00
		Total Bills for Water Account	574.40
		Total Bills for August	9,671.17

Morahan made motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ended July 31, 2020. MSB Wilson. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried.

	Beg Fund Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	End Fund Balance	Investments	Total Fund Balance
General	471,213.23	133,091.59	21,124.89	583,179.93	64,868.96	648,048.89
Road Use Tax	110,357.07	4,942.98	0.00	115,300.05		115,300.05
LOST	79,689.92	3,213.48	0.00	82,903.40		82,903.40
Building Fund	17,787.22	0.00	0.00	17,787.22		17,787.22
Water	16,166.51	0.00	596.50	15,570.01		15,570.01
Total Clerk's Balance	695,213.95	141,248.05	21,721.39	814,740.61	64,868.96	879,609.57
Total Outstanding				346.70		
Total Bank Balance				815,087.31		

Mulholland made motion to provide a letter of support for flood prevention grant for a study of watershed issues. MSB Carpenter. Price absent, none opposed.

City is reviewing vacation of some alleyways throughout town, since they are no longer in use. First step is to identify the alleyways to vacate, whether or not they contain any utilities, and whether city would need to maintain an easement. Next step would be a public hearing to determine no public use of land, establish sale price, and authorize vacation/transfer through ordinance or vacate without selling. Specific guidelines will need to be established regarding instances where one adjacent property owner is interested in the vacated property, but other(s) are not. A workshop date will be set in late August or early September for further discussion.

Carpenter made motion to contract 1000 gallons of LP gas for the upcoming winter season at \$0.99/gallon with Linn Co-op Oil Company. MSB Mulholland. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried. Warrant number 0033 issued for \$990.00.

In order to proceed with grant applications, the City needs to establish a mission and vision statement. The vision statement should include our desire to maintain a rural feel, limitation of development, and an importance on public safety. The mission statement should include our existence to guide and meet basic needs of residents, provide basic recreational opportunities, that we are a conduit of information/resources and that we encourage rising worth of properties. Any other suggestions/input should be submitted to Carpenter.

Motion by Morahan to approve wage resolution setting wages for hired and appointed and hourly employees of the city. The only change was to add verbiage to define the skilled labor rate as follows: "WHEREAS, a skilled labor rate shall apply to hourly employees possessing knowledge and experience to complete tasks the City would otherwise contract a third-party professional organization to complete, including, but not limited to: mechanical, electrical,

plumbing work, and other tasks as approved by the City Council." Rates are as follows: Clerk \$350/month; Treasurer \$75/month; Public Works \$18/hr General Labor, \$35/hr Skilled Labor; Seasonal \$12.50/hr. MSB Carpenter. Ayes: Wilson, Morahan, Mulholland, Carpenter; Nays: Price (Absent); **Resolution R-12-2020** passed.

Carpenter made motion to set a joint public hearing with Linn County for 9/2/2020 at 7:00 pm to vacate a shared roadway along the Dummermuth property. MSB Mulholland. Price absent. None opposed, motion carried. Details will be published by the City and County and will be held virtually.

Correspondence:

Mediacom is dropping NFL Redzone and NFL Network.

Park can officially be opened, but there is still no water.

We received a grant from UP for fencing along the railroad tracks at City Park. City needs to pay for installation of fence and submit reimbursement requests to Four Oaks.

The acreage near the Rustic Ridge entrance have been sold; DNR is analyzing wildlife and plant species.

Open to Floor:

Demolition has begun at 200 Angle Street, but cleanup has slowed. Linn County to follow-up on the demo permit. City is concerned with open basement and torn up sidewalk.

Timberlake addition had DNR survey the woods in their common grounds to provide advice on maintenance. City may consider this in the future.

Residents have voiced complaints of possible nuisance ordinance and animal ordinance violations. Council to follow-up.

McBurneys completed their septic system replacement, but is concerned regarding potential vacation of alleyways by the City. The City will need to investigate existing easements for the residents along 1st Street.

Wilson made motion to adjourn. MSB Mulholland. None opposed, meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Lisa Berry
Clerk